

Application Serial No.: 10/625,278
Amdt. dated July 23, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action dated April 26, 2004 and the references cited therein have been carefully considered. In response to the Office Action, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 16-19 and 22 and amended Claims 2, 5, 12, 20 and 21, which, when considered with the remarks set forth below, are deemed to place the case in condition for allowance. As a result of the present Amendment, Claims 2-15, 20 and 21 remain in the case for continued prosecution.

In the Office Action, Claims 2-15, 20 and 21 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter. In response, Applicants have rewritten allowable Claims 2, 5, 12 and 20 in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2, 5, 12 and 20, and the claims that depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Also in the Office Action, Claim 21 has been objected to as depending from itself. In response, Applicants have amended Claim 21 to depend from allowable Claim 20. Accordingly, it is believed that the objection to Claim 21 has been overcome.

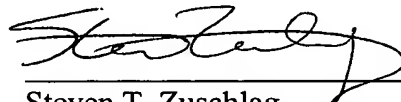
Also in the Office Action, Claims 1, 16-19 and 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,481,342 to Thackray. The

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Examiner states that the features of the rejected claims are structurally met by the Thackray reference. In response, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 16-19 and 22.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, favorable consideration and allowance of the application with Claims 2-15, 20 and 21 are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview would assist in moving the application toward allowance, he is respectfully invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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